

DRAFT

GCSE

HISTORY A: SHP

Our new History A specification builds upon the successful and popular Schools History Project approach which looks at history in a number of different ways. As well as thinking about history differently, learners also have the opportunity to investigate a local historical site, which encourages them to put real history into context.



What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.

*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.



Improving GCSE History A: SHP with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE History A: SHP. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



Our GCSE History A: SHP offers:

- The opportunity to study a historical site in the local area and thus engage candidates with history on their doorstep
- A varied approach to learning about history, including the study of one period of history in depth
- Continuity from the popular and successful SHP approach.

Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEchanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.



Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

For GCSE History A: SHP, controlled assessment means:

- Task setting – Centres use the tasks set by OCR each year.
- Task taking – Direct teacher supervision ensures effective control of factors such as authentication, feedback and use of time.
- Task marking – Tasks are marked by centres and moderated by OCR.

We will review our controlled assessment tasks every two years.

Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
Unit A951: Study in Development and Study in Depth <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Candidates will be expected to demonstrate their ability to describe and explain historical change and cause, and analyse different features of historical situations.	Written examination 2 hours	45%
Unit A952: Historical Source Investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This paper is based on the coherent element of approximately 200 years of British history set out in the specification content and will be based around a historical issue taken from that content.	Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	30%
Unit A953: History Around Us and Modern World History <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task 1 is set on History Around Us.• Task 2 is set on the Modern World History study.	Controlled assessment Candidates complete two controlled assessment tasks set by OCR in no more than 1,000 words each.	25%

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for History A: SHP.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate the following in the context of the content described:

AO1

Recall, select and communicate their knowledge and understanding of history.

AO2

Demonstrate their understanding of the past through explanation and analysis of:

- Key concepts: causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within a historical context
- Key features and characteristics of the periods studied and the relationships between them.

AO3

Understand, analyse and evaluate:

- A range of source material as part of a historical enquiry
- How aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways as part of a historical enquiry.



What changes, and what stays the same?

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Structure unchanged.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a reduction in the number of depth studies - removal of South Africa 1948-1995• The content for Unit A952 complements Unit A951 – entirely focused on British history• Coursework becomes controlled assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All other depth studies remain in the specification.
Assessment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination lengths remain the same for Units A951 and A952• Weighting for controlled assessment.

Support for GCSE History A: SHP teachers

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com.

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)*

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE History A: SHP.

Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Thurs 12 Jun 08 PM	London	OHIA101
Fri 13 Jun 08 PM	Nottingham	OHIA102
Mon 15 Sept 08 PM	London	OHIA103
Tues 16 Sept 08 PM	Birmingham	OHIA104
Mon 22 Sept 08 PM	Norwich	OHIA105
Tues 23 Sept 08 PM	London	OHIA106
Wed 24 Sept 08 PM	Birmingham	OHIA107
Thurs 25 Sept 08 PM	Bristol	OHIA108
Mon 6 Oct 08 PM	London	OHIA109
Tues 7 Oct 08 PM	Southampton	OHIA110
Tues 3 Mar 09 PM	Manchester	OHIA111

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.
- Delegates may attend an AM only session, PM only session or both AM and PM sessions, where two different specifications are being covered on the same day.
- On your booking form, you must put course codes for all sessions you wish to attend, failure to do so may result in you being booked onto incorrect sessions.

We're working with publisher partner Heinemann to provide further resources to support teachers of the new specification.

Resource	Format	Samples available
Medicine through time student book with LiveText and Exam Café CD-ROM	Print and electronic	March 2009
Medicine through Time planning and delivery resource with editable CD-ROM	Print and electronic	March 2009
Medicine through Time interactive presentation package with LiveText	Electronic	March 2009
Crime student book	Print	March 2009
American West student book with LiveText and Exam Café CD-ROM	Print and electronic	March 2009
Germany student book with LiveText and Exam Café CD-ROM	Print and electronic	March 2009
Elizabethans student book	Print	March 2009
Britain student book	Print	March 2009
Revision guide	Print	March 2009



To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/history/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.



www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

Vocational qualifications

Telephone 024 76 851509

Facsimile 024 76 421944

Email vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

Head office

1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU

Telephone 01223 552552

Facsimile 01223 552553



PART OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT
GROUP

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored.

© OCR 2007 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England.
Registered office 1 Hills Road, Cambridge CB1 2EU. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.